



National Cherry Blossom Festival Celebration Mar. 20-Apr. 27

The National Cherry Blossom Festival announced key initiatives and programming that will comprise the unprecedented five week 2012 Centennial Celebration, March 20 to April 27, in honor of the 100 year anniversary of the gift of trees from Tokyo to Washington, DC. Filled with spectacular performances and exciting announcements, the luncheon was just a glimpse of what is planned for 2012.

The gift of trees is now the nations greatest springtime celebration, and the Festival will expand from 16 days to a five-week event paying tribute to 100 years of blossoms with prestigious arts and culture, key environmental initiatives, and more community spirit than ever before.

Signature events will be elevated and new activities and programs put forth in honor of the once-in-a-lifetime occasion. The Festival unveiled the "City in Bloom," a campaign to visually unite the region for over one million expected attendees. Through the Festival's City in Bloom tool kit, area businesses, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to utilize special pink and blossom lighting, blossom decals, oversize banners, and more, and renowned



art and culture will be at the forefront of offerings.

The National Gallery of Art will exhibit Colorful Realm of Living Beings, a 30-scroll set of paintings, never before seen in its entirety outside Japan. The Arthur M. Sackler Gallery will have two exhibits featuring the masterworks of Hokusai and

rare Buddhist paintings. National Geographic Museum will have a special exhibit on the Samurai's influence on Japanese history and culture. S&R Foundation will have a Cherry Blossom Concert Series, with award-winning, world-class Japanese artists featured at the Kennedy Center.

Signature events that help make up the 2012 calendar include the Opening Ceremony on Sunday, March 25 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, a ticketed but free star-studded show seating 6,000 people; Family Days on Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25; the Blossom



Kite Festival on Saturday, March 31; the Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival on Saturday, April 7; and the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade, followed by the Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival on Saturday, April 14. Free cultural performances will take place throughout the five weeks at both the Jefferson Memorial stage and Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument Grounds. Visit nationalcherryblossomfestival.org for more information.



Red Hats Meet for Saturday Brunch

The members of the Sisters of Faith Chapter of the Red Hats women's social organization met for Saturday brunch at Station 4 Restaurant at M St. & 4th St. SW recently. They always wear purple with their red hats.

Judy Washington, 3rd from the front on

the left, with glasses, is their Queen Mother.

Their recent charity work has been supplying food for a family of 4 for a month at Thanksgiving time.

The Red Hats have chapters all over the country. For information, call Lois Davis, 554-0456.

Awards Promote "Five Minute Living" In Neighborhood

By Andrew Finken

On December 8th, Council Member Tommy Wells honored five people and organizations that exemplify integral pieces of his vision of livability. As his website states, "At its best, Washington--and Ward 6 in particular--offers residents an exciting environment, diverse community, and convenient lifestyle. Here we enjoy the possibility of "five-minute living," where most everything we need, as well as a rich variety of cultural amenities, is within a short walk or transit ride of our homes."

Council Member Wells' annual Awards program promotes that goal:

Capital Bikeshare, with 110 stations across the city saw 18,000 new members join in 2011, and received the Livable, Walkable Public Service Award.



Capitol Hill resident Michael Barrette received the neighbor award for his work transforming local rooftops into energy producers through the widespread installation of solar panels. So far, Barrette has overseen installation on 70 homes.

The Community Organization Award was given to Neighbors of Southwest Duck Pond for its work maintaining the grounds of the

Continued on Page 2

Velodrome For Buzzard's Point?

DCist reported that DC Velodrome, a 501c3 organization, is in negotiations to lease space to build a temporary velodrome near Nationals Park. The proposed site, thanks to the investigative skills of JD Land appears to be the southern-most block of Akridge's 100 V Street in Buzzard



Rendering of 100 V Street courtesy of Akridge.

Point. Here is a description of the proposed velodrome from DC Velodrome's website:

Preliminary (3-to-5 year) plans call for the assembly of a portable cycling track which will be leased from Major League Cycling, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Basic facilities, including a perimeter fence for security, small grandstands, public address/sound system, lights, portable toilets, and a snack bar/storage building of a temporary nature will be installed on site. There will be parking for approximately 50 cars.

According to the DCist article, the non-profit plans to raise \$300,000 to operate the velodrome for the first year, with costs to decline in subsequent years.

(Courtesy of Will Rich's blog 'The Little Quadrant That Could,' used with written permission)

AWARDS

From p. 1

notorious almost-island park along 6th and I streets.

SOVA Espresso & Wine on 14th and H Streets N.E. received the Business Award for providing meeting space for dozens of community organizations, a frequent venue for local musicians, and peaceful haven for local residents for 14 years.

And the event's first-annual Civic



Southwest Duck Pond

Pride Award

went to the Capitol Hill Coldwell Banker for its Holiday Window Display on 605 Penn. Avenue S.E.; 2011 is the eleventh Christmas that Coldwell Banker has exhibited a Manhattan Storefront-style holiday



display in its front window.

Together, these people and organizations help make Ward 6 the livable, walkable community that it is. They also serve as a model for communities around the country that are struggling with the pollution, congestion, and cost from out-dated livability models. Above all, the individual Livable, Walkable Award winners illustrates everyone's interdependence within a successful and enjoyable community.



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Southwester Staff

Editor Emeritus: Dale MacIver

Co-editors: Tiffany Klaff and Erin Fitzgerald

Business Manager: Alan McCain

Editorial Staff: Andrea Pawley and Jennifer Wiles

Education and Schools: Meg Brinckman

Distribution: Perry Klein

Design & Layout: Electronic Ink

Printer: Silver Communications

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Community Calendar

DECEMBER

SAT. 24 Christmas Eve

SUN. 25 Christmas Day

TUES. DEC. 27, Local ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) Committee, 7 pm, King—Greenleaf Recreation Center, First & N St. SW

WED. 28 Last night of Chanukah

SAT. 31 New Year's Eve

JANUARY

SUN. 1 New Year's Day

WED. 4 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM "Remembering Dr. Pearl Perry" at meeting of TENAC tenant's association, Sumner School, 17th & M St. NW.

WED. 4 7PM Art & Spirit Coffee House – Connie Frigo, saxophonist St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW

SAT. 7 7PM, Concert, ROC Ensemble, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW

MON. 9 7PM Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC6D) monthly meeting, 1100 4th St. SW DCRA Meeting Room 2nd floor

WED. 11 NOON AARP, 1311 Delaware Av SW, Community Room

WED. 11 6 PM, SW DC Arts Festival annual meeting, downstairs at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St. SW; The public is welcome. (2012 SW ArtsFest will be Sat. Sep 29, 2012 etc.)

WED. 12 6:30 TO 8PM Public meeting about DDOT study of Transportation along M St. SE/SW Corridor and Waterfront, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye)

MON. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR, BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY

THURS. 19 7PM Police Service Area (PSA 104) public meeting, River Park, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW, Community Room

TUES. 17 7:30 SW Chamber Players. Featuring St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW

MON. 23 7:30 PM Monthly public meeting of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA)

THURS. 26 12:30 PM NARFE meeting, SW Branch Library, 3rd & K St. SW

SUN. 29 3:30 Free, open to the public, no ticket required, panel discussion by experts on artist Mark Rothko, following the 2 pm Matinee of RED, the play about Rothko's life. First in a similar Sun. discussion over following 5 Sundays.

TUES. 31 7PM Alcoholic Beverage Control committee meeting, public welcome, King-Greenleaf Recreation Center, 200 N St. SW

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

TEEN BOOK CLUB Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW, every other Tuesday, 4 p.m.

GRAPHIC NOVEL READ-IN Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW, every other Thursday, 4 p.m.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW, every Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Ages 2-5.

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St. SW, every first and third Monday from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

MONDAY EVENING FILMS, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW, every Monday, 6:30 p.m. Experience a different cinematic treat every week. Call 202-724-4752 for movie titles. All ages.

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR ADULTS, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, every Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon.

THE SOUTH WASHINGTON WEST OF THE RIVER FATHERHOOD PROGRAM, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St., SW, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. For more information, call Alphonso Coles at (202) 870-1885.

SOUTHWEST SEWING GROUP, Mondays, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW. Contact Willie Mae Stukes, sewing teacher, at (301) 445-1792. Open to all interested in working on their own sewing projects and updating their hand and/or machine sewing skills.

Mondays, except for July and August.

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, Mondays, 8:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St., SW, (202) 554-3222.

SW FREEWAY NA, Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.-8 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St., SW (202) 484-7700.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, Jitter bug, lindy hop. Saturdays, 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children ages 8-17. Christ United Methodist community room off Wesley Pl., SW.

HAIKU TO HIP HOP, creative writing workshop Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. For ages 12 through 19, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW, For all levels, even beginners.

CHESS AND SCRABBLE CLUB, Southwest Library main room, 900 Wesley Pl., Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. For all levels, all ages.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Various blues musicians and singers featured each Monday, \$5. Food for sale, SW Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW (202) 484-7700.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, 4 p.m. Seated yoga (Pamela Wilson), 5 p.m. Tai Chi (Manifest Ra), 5:30 p.m. Laughter yoga (Claire Trivedi), 6:45 p.m. Sampoorna Hatha Yoga (Alex Rosen). Free with donations welcome, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW (202) 484-7700.

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, Fridays, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Various jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday, \$5. Food for sale. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St., SW (202) 484-7700.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. First and third Wednesday each month. Buy, sell, and trade stamps. Refreshments, auctions, and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 300 block I (Eye) St., SW (202) 291-6229.

Please submit calendar items for January events by email to editor@thesouthwester.com by January 18, 2012.

Arena Stage, National Gallery Feature Artist Mark Rothko

By Sheila Wackowski

Less than a mile apart, Arena Stage and the National Gallery of Art are simultaneously presenting shows about Mark Rothko's Red paintings.

The award winning play Red by John Logan at Arena is set in Rothko's New York studio in 1958-9.

Ed Gero stars as Rothko, a major Abstract Expressionist who is also considered a color-field painter. Rothko has accepted a prestigious commission for murals for The Four Seasons, the luxurious restaurant in the Seagram Building.

While he is in the process of creating his dramatic paintings, his assistant Ken, played by Patrick Andrews, poses questions to Rothko on his theories of art and why he agreed to work on such a commercial project.

The intense 90 minute bio-drama is not another art appreciation class but rather about layered relationships: of a teacher to his pupil, of an artist to his creation about art to society.



The Seagram commission had presented a challenge to Rothko to produce works to fit a specific defined large space. After he had completed around thirty paintings, three full series in dark red and brown, he traveled with his family to Europe. Upon return, he determined that the restaurant was an inappropriate venue for his works. He returned the commission and put his paintings in storage. Rothko committed suicide in 1970, ending his life but not the controversy surrounding him.

In 1985-86, The National Gallery of Art received a vast gift from the Mark Rothko Foundation, including several paintings from this project. (Others are at the Tate Modern in London and Japan's Kawamura Memorial Museum.)

The Phillips Collection has also significant Rothko's works and along with Arena and the NGA will host events in this synergy of theater and art to explore some of the questions that Rothko raises.

WANT TO GO?

ARENA STAGE:

WHAT? Engage at Arena Stage Panel Series

WHEN? Sundays following the 2:00 p.m. matinee (approximately at 3:30 p.m.). Panelist range from Rothko experts to living artists in discussions that explores specific facets of the painter's complex life. The panels will take place following the Sunday matinees of Red on January 29; February 5, 12, 19 and 26; and March 4.

COST: Free

WHAT: Imagining Rothko Panel Discussion

WHEN: January 29 at 3:30 p.m.

The National Gallery of Art's Director of Education Lynn Russell moderates a conversation between Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art Harry Cooper and Curator of Special Projects in Modern Art and lead author of the Rothko works on paper catalogue raisonné Ruth Fine exploring how Rothko has figured into the public imagination.

INFORMATION: Information on future panelists visit <http://www.arenastage.org/shows-tickets/the-season/productions/red/events/>.

PHILLIPS COLLECTION:

WHAT? Lecture on Mark Rothko and Color

Phillips Curator at Large and author of The Essential Mark Rothko Klaus Ottmann discusses how Rothko used color as a gateway to the soul. Rothko's idea that color can express the full gravity of religious yearnings is evident in the Phillips's chapel-like Rothko Room.

WHEN? Jan. 12, 6 p.m.

WHERE? The Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St., NW, D.C.

COST? By donation.

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SE/SW M St. Transportation Study Meeting Jan. 12

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) will hold the first in a series of public information meetings for the M Street SE/SW Transportation Study from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW.

The nine-month study, being conducted as part of the larger Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, seeks to identify current and future transportation issues and possible mitigation strategies along the M Street SE/SW Corridor and Southwest/Southeast Waterfront areas from 12th Street SE west to 14th Street SW and from the Southwest/Southeast Freeway south to the Anacostia River/Washington Channel.

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide an overview of the transportation study, outline the study process/schedule and gather public feedback.

Allen A. Flood, M.D.

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6:30 to 8:30 pm FRIDAY, February 3, 2012 [snow date: February 17]
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*I won the raffle by the CFJB to have a concert at the location of my choice;
Presentation courtesy of the Capital Focus Jazz Band and Coralie Farlee, Friends of Southwest DC



Free Concert: Capital Focus (Youth) Jazz Band

By Coralie Farlee,
Friends of Southwest DC

On Fri. Feb. 3, 2012, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm the youth traditional jazz band, Capital Focus Jazz Band, which draws participants and audience from the entire DC area, will perform a free concert at the King Greenleaf Recreation Center at First and N St. SW in Southwest Washington, D. C.

(I couldn't accompany the group this year for its trip (and concerts) in Spain and, instead, entered a raffle to help sponsor the trip. With the winning raffle ticket, I elected to arrange to hold the concert in SW DC. (See ad on another page in this issue of The Southwester.)

Members of the current band include high school and college students several of whom

initially learned their instrument as a part of a public school music program. Previous members have gone on to form their own jazz group or perform independently for private parties and in local establishments.

Titles of selections that the band has learned and will likely play at this concert include "Basin Street Blues," "Kansas City Stomps," "On the Sunny Side of the Street," "I Lost My Gal From Memphis," "Jazz Me Blues," and "Chinatown, My Chinatown." These are all typical of traditional jazz, or "Trad Jazz," which is described by Dave Robinson, director, as comprised of wind instruments playing easily discerned chord patterns, in a simple meter, with a "front line" of trumpet or cornet, clarinet or soprano saxophone and trombone, along with rhythm section of piano, banjo and drums (or washboard).

Covering Over Delaware Ave. SW

D COP is providing a 30-day public comment period on the Draft Plan. Comments must be postmarked to the DC Office of Planning by the close of the comment period, which is February 3, 2012. In addition, a Mayoral Hearing will be hosted to receive testimony on the Draft Plan and is scheduled for February 1, 2012 at Waterfront Station, 1100 4th Street SW, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Washington, DC 20024 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Working Group On Changes To DC Alcohol Law

At the November meeting of ANC6D the Commissioners appointed me to a Working Group organized by Councilmember Jim Graham, Chair, Committee on Human Services (which includes alcohol regulation) to review and present proposals to update/change Title 25 DC Law that governs Alcohol Beverage Control.

The next meeting (January) will focus on Noise and Technical Issues. Subsequent meetings will focus on: Voluntary Agreements (Va's), Processes of and eligibility for protests; Types of licenses and restrictions; Hiring of Off-duty Police for specific licensees and times/days; Over-concentration of licenses; Food requirements; Public safety and violence; Role of promoters; and other topics.

If you would like to receive a copy of a list of possible changes to the law, please

contact me by sending your e-mail contact information to: cfarlee@mindspring.com, or by phone to me at 554-4407. You may also contact your representative to the ABC Committee :

ANC6D's Alcohol Beverage Control Committee

ANC 6D01: Zen McManus
ANC 6D02: Helena Coleman
ANC 6D03: Vacant
ANC 6D04: Brad Soule
ANC 6D05: Coralie Farlee
ANC 6D06: Gloria Hamilton
ANC 6D07: Chris Thiemann
or your ANC Commissioner.

The next meeting of the ABC Committee is: Tuesday, December 27, at 7 pm, at the King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street, SW. Please send any comments/suggestions to me prior to that meeting and plan to attend that (and subsequent) meetings.

By Sheila Wickouski

The National Building Museum’s exhibit *Unbuilt Washington* is certainly about the monuments, memorials and major buildings that are of national importance and how politics as much as design figured into what came to be built. But it is also very much about the sections of the city where people live and work each day.

G. Martin Moeller Jr., National Building Museum senior vice president and curator has organized the exhibit along thematic lines that covers both the big picture and the local scene starting with the basic city plan of four quadrants with Pierre L’Enfant’s *Plans for the Mall* in 1791.

The definition of what Southwest is begins here.

One of the earliest plans, a lithograph from 1852 by Benjamin Franklin Smith Jr., shows a hypothetical view of the Mall as it might appear with the original design for a circular base to the Washington Monument. The Tiber Canal, an open sewer at the time, is depicted as a lovely waterway with sailboats and graceful bridges. Tiber Canal cuts down across Southwest DC in the 1800s.

The 1950 “urban renewal” initiative by the government led to the demolition of

“Unbuilt Washington”

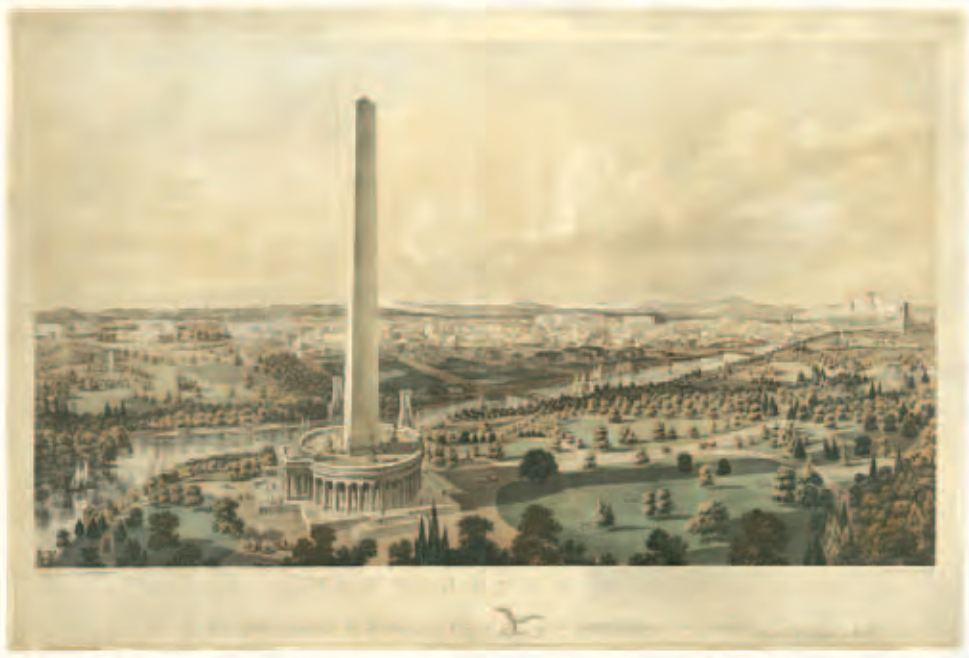


Photo: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, LC-DIG-ppmsca-31534

Projected improvements to the Washington Monument and National Mall by B.F. Smith, 1852. This image shows a variation on the circular colonnade that was part of the original design for the Washington Monument, but was never executed. It also shows a proposed suspension bridge across the canal adjacent to the Mall.



Photo: National Archives

Proposal for the Lincoln Memorial by John Russell Pope, 1912. This was one of several proposals by Pope for the Lincoln Memorial in widely different styles.

more than 6,000 dwellings in this area. Subsequent housing developments followed, by the riverfront remained undeveloped until the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative in 2000.

Early proposals included one for a National Fisheries Center & Aquarium (1966-70) as well as Buzzard Point Condominium (2005), in what one real estate broker enthusiastically called “the new

downtown.”

A Digital presentation *Southwest Washington D.C.: (A)mending L’Enfant’s Plan* (2010-11 Architects: Studio Twenty Seven Architecture) presents:

“the decked-over freeway with skylights; the

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: *Unbuilt Washington*

WHERE: National Building Museum at 401 F Street NW. Metro Redline, Judiciary Square stop

HOURS: Monday - Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm; Sunday: 11 am - 5 pm

ADMISSION: Free access to the Great Hall, historic building tours, Museum Shop, & cafe. Exhibition admission: \$8 for adults; \$5 for youth, students, & seniors; \$3 a person for Building Zone only; Free for Museum members.

linear park or “public green” built over the freeway; the ferry terminal; new development along the Southwest waterfront; and the conversion of the existing Long Bridge, which carries trains across the Potomac, into a pedestrian connector. “

The exhibit ends with a model of various media: *Proposed Washington Channel Bridge*, (1966 Architects: Chloethiel Woodard Smith & Associated Architects). This innovative proposal was:

“for the Washington Channel Bridge, spanning from the Southwest waterfront to the proposed site of the National Fisheries Center and Aquarium in East Potomac Park. Lined with shops and restaurants, the bridge would carry pedestrians and shuttle buses only. The design was nicknamed the “Ponte Vecchio” after the famous bridge in Florence, Italy.”

Southwest Arts Festival Annual Meeting January 11, 6PM

Under our SW ArtsFest bylaws, SW ArtsFest holds annual meetings at which we elect directors & officers. The board of directors has scheduled our first annual meeting for January 11, 2012, starting 6 p.m., in the basement of Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St., SW. If you might want to serve as a SW ArtsFest officer or on the ArtsFest board of directors, please let us know. Current officers & board members include David Sobelsohn (president), Shane Pomajambo (vice-president), Joshua Perry (treasurer), Kael Anderson (secretary), Barbara Ehrlich (board member), Brian Hamilton (board member), & John Viglianti (board member). All our current

officers also serve on the board of directors. Our January 11 board meeting will also include further planning of SW ArtsFest 2012. The public is welcome to attend SW ArtsFest board meetings, so feel free to attend even if you don’t want to serve as an officer or on the board of directors.

Please forward this message to anyone you think might have an interest in attending the SW ArtsFest annual meeting. Our warmest wishes for an arts-filled holiday season!

David Sobelsohn
SW ArtsFest
(202) 484-8303

SW Post Office To Close

At the Dec. ANC 6D meeting, the commissioners confirmed that the Southwest Post Office, located on Half and L Street, will close at the end of 2012 when its lease expires. The main reason

for the post office closure is because of the lease expiration, not cutbacks by the Postal Service, so the search for a replacement space is under way.

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Near L'enfant Metro

By Hayden M. Wetzel

(This is the second of a series of five articles describing the history of parks in the 1950-70s Urban Renewal Project in Southwest Washington. Later articles will discuss Town Center Parks, Waterfront Parks, and little Amidon Sidewalk Park. Lansburgh Park was one of the first public parks planned in the renewal project (in 1955).

Urban Renewal planners divided Southwest into several Planning Areas. Area C1 – east of Delaware and south of I Street – was mostly given over to the commercial uses that had been displaced by residential development to the west and south. Mark Lansburgh, president of the old Lansburgh's Department Store and first chairman of RLA, felt strongly that the area needed an open recreation area. After his death in 1953 the RLA board recommended the new park be named in his honor, saying: "Mr. Lansburgh had a great interest in this park and instrumental in keeping urban renewal going when no public funds were available for the agency [RLA]." (The early meetings were held in his office, and he purchased the Agency's supplies.)

Lansburgh Park



Lansburgh Park was originally planned only for the land between Delaware and 1st Street, the area was enlarged by closing 1st between I and M and the associated portions of K and M Streets (1960). RLA transferred the parcel to the National Park Service in 1962 with the requirement that "improvements" begin within 60 days. Given the proximity of both Randall JHS's and Greenleaf-Hoover (now King Greenleaf) recreation areas, with their dedicated facilities, Lansburgh was planned as "a large open green space suitable for passive, as opposed to organized recreation;" a place for young children "who need a place to romp and run off steam" and for seniors "who need a place to congregate, meet people, talk, play chess or cards, toss horseshoes, etc." Planning documents foresaw tree-lined open areas for play and a protected plaza for community events.

This concept was realized by Leroy Skillman, of the Park Service's design office, whose

lovely drawings are at the National Archives and one reproduced above:

Skillman envisioned "Many flowering trees floating beneath a canopy of large shade trees giving the area a feeling of casualness and relaxation." Skillman also stipulated a plaza of pavilions "composed of a gently arching roof standing on four steel pipe columns. The columns are larger in size than are structurally necessary because of aesthetics rather than strength."

These structures still stand as he specified but without the "flat sheets of colored fiberglass" that were intended to cover the roofs. Skillman later moved to the design section of Metro and then private practice before dying in 2006. Lansburgh Park was the first public park completed in the Urban Renewal project, being dedicated in 1964. The Park Service transferred it to city control in 1972. In 1986 a small strip was removed from the park along the southern entrance and used to enlarge the parking lot of the then United Way building. Although the park saw many of the community events intended for it in its early years, neighbors gradually left Lansburgh for the better kept and more open King Greenleaf recreation center. Proposals to bring community life back to Lansburgh included installation of a skating rink, and addition of an artistic play structure (installed but now gone).

The park became instead a haven for drug dealing and neglect. "The lack of lighting, neglected maintenance, and inaccessibility contributed to the perception that the park is not a safe public space," noted a 2008 report.

Since that time, fortunately, the city has made improvements (including new benches) and neighbors have begun to reclaim this green space for its original use. (The research for this project was conducted in documents of the government agencies involved in the Urban Renewal Project found in agency and other government archives and was conducted at the request of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. The author is a Washington tour guide and active preservationist.)

Next issue: Town Center Parks

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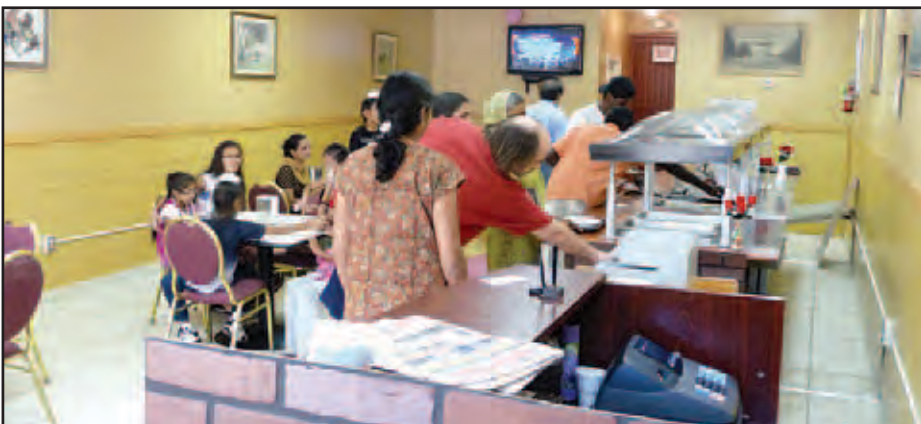
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i-Read: Reflections on Technology in the Pastorate

By Rev. Michael Bledsoe,
Riverside Baptist Church

After the death of Steve Jobs, a New Yorker cartoon appeared that showed Jobs standing before the pearly gates of heaven. Standing before him was St. Peter. Peter was scanning an iPad to see if Steve's name was on the list of those allowed to enter.

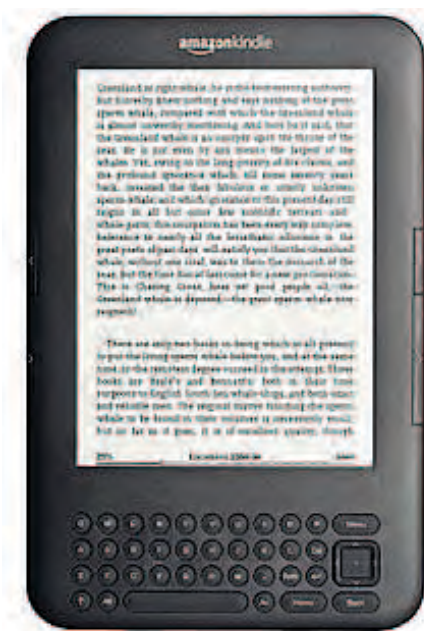
The i-devices invented by Jobs may not have configured heavenly realms, but they have certainly changed the way we do things on earth and as a pastor and professor I have benefited by and used these devices. Two devices in particular have made a significant change to my practice of ministry: the Kindle and the iPhone.

I was gifted with a Kindle DX, a digital reader from Amazon.

One of the most valuable aspects of reading digitally from my point of view is the ease by which I can explore the definition of a word. I can look up words on my Kindle by simply moving the cursor in front of a word and the definition shows up at the bottom of the screen.

These devices have impacted me at the point of my daily and weekly routine: every Monday The New Yorker arrives on the Kindle so that I wake up, get a cup of coffee and begin my week looking at New Yorker cartoons and reading a well-crafted essay. Talk about draining the blues from the swamp called Monday, that does it for me.

But here is the really amazing and unexpected gift: I no longer have to take a type-



written manuscript into the pulpit since I have placed my Word document from my computer onto the device. No more rattling of papers or losing pages. No obvious gestures of turning the page since now I just quietly click "next page." More eye contact, clear and legible type face and less trees killed for sermons. It is a gift in more ways than one.

Let me share with you how it enhanced my visit to a senior at a nursing home.

One day I visited a congregant who resides on an Alzheimer's ward in a nursing home. I

Continued on Page 7

National Need for Action for “Five Minute Living”

By Andrew Finken

Cities all over the country are currently expanding their artery highways and interstates to a great degree. Large highway expansion is an expensive multi-year public works process that employs hundreds, probably thousands, of local construction workers. To some, this represents an economic stimulus; more money in the hands of the potentially unemployed who must spend almost the entirety of their pay checks, thus indirectly supporting local business. But what is left over after the concrete dust settles is not improvement, but debt.

A road expansion also expands a community’s impermeable surface, eliminating grassland, bushes, and trees, and forcing more oil-contaminated rain through sewers and into nearby lakes and rivers. Because an expanded road decreases commuting time it provides incentives for additional people to commute, encouraging both outlying residents to travel to the city more frequently and also more proximate residents to move to outlying areas of the community. Therefore, the intended decrease in road congestion (the purpose of the project) actually increases the total of amount of commuting time.

There are devastating second tier affects as well. More driving time equals more fuel and automobile consumption – there are 8 gallons of oil in the average automobile tire, - both of which aggravate national currency reserves because the majority of both of these goods are purchased abroad, not to mention pollution and carbon impact. In addition, these frequent purchases are expensive for the individual traveler and necessitate the occurrence of further personal debt.

And then there are the opportunity costs.

The labor and capital that communities invest into road expansion is the same type of labor and capital necessary for public transportation, such as light rail, street cars, and bike and walking paths. If the amount of money individuals spend on the personal transportation goods described above, most notably cars and fuel, the opportunity cost becomes horrendous. Add in the significant time savings that many public transportation models would inspire, as well as its incentives for urban density over sprawl, and a sustainable model suddenly clicks into view.

But wait. There is more beyond the public and personal economic and time savings that would accrue from smarter transportation investments. Investment in public transportation infrastructure such as light rails, subways, and bike paths promotes walkability. In place of driving to work, people walk to a subway stop and then walk from their departing stop to their final destination, thus promoting exercise, conversation with neighbors, and travel time that can be spent reading or listening to podcasts instead of watching taillights. The increased presence of individuals on neighborhood streets, likewise, discourages crime, promotes civic engagement, and builds neighborhood pride. And those who could not afford personal transportation before are now allowed to travel around the community.

Finally, increased foot traffic, private savings, and free time among local residents provides a very strong incentive for the creation of local businesses such as restaurants, cafes, grocery stores, street shops, and entertainment venues. These are the types of places where a community can relax, get to know one another, and learn about and enjoy music and other art. In essence, this is where social trust is formed and a community’s culture is created.

i-READ

From p. 6

dropped in one day, carrying my Kindle with me, as I don’t like leaving it in the car. We talked a few moments and then it occurred to me—the Kindle could read text. I pulled up Sunday’s sermon, held down two keys and let the device read (out loud) my sermon to her. I keep a picture of her on my iPhone I took of her that day, as she held the device and intently listened.

As you might imagine, these benefits translate to the classroom. While I have not placed my lectures on my Kindle, the first and greatest benefit is bringing down the cost of books for students. Unfortunately, publishers are

lagging behind so that most textbooks are still unavailable digitally, though this is changing as both Amazon and Google squeeze publishers from different directions. Type the url: books.google.com and search for an author, title or subject and soon you will be reading samples of books or in some cases entire books.

These are some ways the new technology has reshaped the way I live and work. There is one demurral to make in regard to all of this: whatever cyber community you are part of; whatever application you use to navigate your world or learn about it; none of these come close to authentic human interaction. There is no “app” for incarnated presence, tangible and tangled grace.

Michael Bledsoe celebrates 20 years as pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in SW and 15 years as recurring adjunct professor at Howard University School of Divinity. His most recent discoveries with the practical side of technology revolve around self-publishing for the Kindle. You can check out his author’s page at Amazon – FOR EXAMPLE:

“Dear Mr. Beck” and Other Social Gospel Sermons by Michael Bledsoe (Kindle Edition - Oct 8, 2011) – 69 pages - Kindle eBook (buy from Amazon \$7.25)



Religious Calendar

Galilee A.M.E. Church

Worshipping at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 600 M St. SW
202-258-6812
Rev. S. Isaiah Harvin
Sunday: 2 p.m.
Wednesday: Bible Study
7:30 p.m.

Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle of the Assemblies of God

60 I St. SW
202-251-5137
Pastor Fitzgerald Carter
Sunday: 10:45 a.m.; Friday Prayer and Bible Study: 8 p.m.

Carron Baptist Church

1354 First St., SW
202-484-3172
Pastor Lester W. Allen
Sunday: 11 a.m.
Tuesday: Noon Day Prayer, 7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Friendship Baptist Church

900 Delaware Ave. SW
202-488-7417
Rev. Dr. J. Michael Little, Pastor
Sunday: 9:30 A.M, Sunday School; 11 a.m. Morning Worship
Tuesday: 7 p.m. Prayer Service and Bible Study

Riverside Baptist Church

Seventh St. and Maine Avenue SW
202-554-4330
Pastor Michael Bledsoe, Ph.D.
Sunday: 10 a.m. with Bible Study at 9 a.m.

St. Matthew’s Baptist Church

1105 New Jersey Ave. SE
202-488-7298
Rev. Dr. Maxwell M. Washington, Pastor
Sunday: 8 a.m. Sunday School; 9:05 a.m. Worship Service
Tuesday: 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

Second Baptist Church Southwest

First & M streets, SW
202-484-3112
Pastor C.L. Brown
Sunday: Church School 8:30 a.m.; Morning Worship: 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday: Bible Study noon and 7 p.m.

Second Union Baptist Church

1107 Delaware Ave. SW
202-484-7012
Rev. William Harrison, Pastor

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10:15 a.m. Worship

St. Dominic Catholic Parish

603 E St. SW
202-554-7863
Fr. George Schommer
Saturday: 5:15 p.m.
Sunday: 8 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 12:15 p.m. (Spanish), and 5:15 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

14 M St. SE
202-488-1354
Fr. Richard Gancayco
Sunday: 8 a.m.
Mon. and Fri.: 12:10 p.m.

St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church

600 M St. SW
202-554-3222
Rev. Martha Clark
marthakclark@yahoo.com
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church

Worshiping at First Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 Fourth St. NW at Judiciary Square
410-375-5053 (cell)
Pastor Phillip Huber
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.
Thursday: 6 p.m.: Bread and Soup, 6:45 p.m. Evening Prayer

Christ United Methodist Church

900 Fourth St. SW
202-554-9117
Rev. Adrienne Terry
Sunday: 10 a.m.
Thursday: 12 noon & 6:30 p.m., Bible Study

St. Paul African Union Methodist Protestant Church

401 I St., SE
202-997-3049
Rev. Karen Mills
Sunday: 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

400 I St. SW
202-484-7700
Co-Pastors: Rev. Ruth Hamilton and Rev. Brian Hamilton
Sunday: Worship 11 a.m.
Blue Monday Blues: 6 - 9 p.m.
Wellness Wednesday Yoga: 4 - 8 p.m.
Friday Jazz Nights: 6 - 9 p.m.

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